



BIKEABILITY FIND YOUR OWN BIKE ROUTE

EVER WONDER HOW long it would take you to bike to work or another destination and what route you would use? Learn the quickest and easiest routes by visiting the website www.cyclopath.org and entering your starting point and destination. Cyclopath will calculate a route for you with turn-by-turn instructions, similar to the way Mapquest works for auto trips. The website also gives users the option of selecting the degree to which a route should favor “minimum distance” versus “bikeability.”



OVERPOWER PESTS WITHOUT POISON AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...

PREVENTING PESTS from entering and setting up camp in your residence in the first place is the best control method. Follow these tips for pest-proofing your home:

- Clean up food and beverage spills immediately.
- Keep food and garbage in tightly closed containers.
- Repair torn screens and caulk all cracks and crevices where pests may enter.
- Use mechanical traps or low-toxicity products as a last resort.
- If possible, avoid using sprays containing DEET and other pesticides.

For safer pest control options, visit www.beyondpesticides.org.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it’s saving energy or guarding Bloomington’s precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action...

EARTH ACTION HEROES DWAN’S “GREEN” KEEPERS

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, Bloomington’s Dwan Golf Course has been taking steps to become more environmentally friendly by installing nesting houses for birds, cultivating native prairie grasses, growing native plants and employing water conservation techniques. Because of these efforts, Dwan was recently awarded a certificate of achievement in environmental planning from the prestigious Audubon International. The certification is the result of countless hours of documentation and planning by Dwan staff members, including Dwan Golf Course Superintendent Mike Hoffman and Dwan Manager Rick Sitek.

The certification means Dwan has now officially joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP).

The ACSP for golf courses provides advisory service to help existing golf courses develop effective conservation and wildlife enhancement programs.



Staff Ecologist for Audubon International Jim Sluiter said in a press release that it is important to remember that a golf course is used not just by golfers, but is habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

“We welcome Dwan Golf Course’s commitment to the environment and to managing the golf course with wildlife in mind,” Sluiter said.

Audubon International has a checklist of projects that golf courses may undertake to receive environmental certification in different areas, including water quality management, water conservation, chemical use reduction and outreach and education.

According to Sitek, now that Dwan is certified in environmental planning, staff will begin to work to obtain certification in additional categories of wildlife and habitat management and water conservation.

Sitek said he believes environmental planning is “the right thing to do” and that the efforts will only add to Dwan’s beauty.

“Most players don’t get the opportunity to see the course early in the morning,” Sitek said. “When the sun is just coming up and there’s dew on the newly mown fairways, it’s really quite beautiful.”

Dwan Golf Course Superintendent Mike Hoffman, who put together the original plan to submit to Audubon International, said he is proud of Dwan’s environmental stewardship.

“We’ve always strived to be environmentally friendly,” Hoffman said. “Audubon certification validates our efforts.”



“We decided about seven years ago to really enhance and protect the wildlife habitat on the course by installing nesting houses for birds and growing prairie grass,” said Dwan Manager Rick Sitek. “This is something we’ve been working hard at for a long time.”

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE ASH TREES?

If your ash tree appears healthy, you may not need to take any action now. Healthy ash trees should not be cut down! If you are concerned, consider consulting an arborist. If an arborist confirms your tree has Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), you may need to treat or remove the tree. Any company removing a tree should provide proof of insurance. Trust experienced professionals to help you choose the right replacement trees. If you have questions or want to report a suspected find of EAB, call the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Arrest Pest hotline at 651-201-6644, or visit www.mda.state.mn.us, keywords: Emerald Ash Borer.



ASH TREES AT RISK EMERALD ASH BORER IN MINNESOTA

EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB), the small, iridescent green beetle that attacks and kills ash trees, has been discovered in St. Paul. As a result, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has issued a quarantine prohibiting the movement of hardwood firewood, ash trees, ash tree limbs or branches of ash trees, ash lumber with bark attached and uncomposted ash chips out of Hennepin and Ramsey counties.

Although the EAB has not yet been found in Bloomington, the City is taking direction from the MDA and is in the process of creating a plan to deal with the pest’s likely arrival.

Bloomington tree inspectors licensed by the MDA will search for EAB in their annual tree inspections. Information from these inspections will help determine the response strategy implemented by state and local officials. The Bloomington City Council has already passed an ordinance prohibiting the planting of ash trees.

In the meantime, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Paul Edwardson recommends residents take extra care of the trees they are trying to retain. Pesticides are not necessary. In fact, University of Minnesota experts advise against the use of insecticide treatments without a confirmed infestation.

For more information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: EAB, or contact Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8762.

